Web Design for Natural Disaster Education



Project Title	Web Design for Natural Disaster Education
Project Summary	Work with a consortium of agencies to design a website for our collaborative Education Rapid Response program.
Country	United States

Project Description

The U.S. Geological Survey, Youth and Education in Science (YES) office is working with a group of federal agencies and professional societies to launch an online education resource that can be activated quickly in response to a natural disaster. The resource will provide educators with access to educational materials and options for in-person and virtual classroom visits by relevant science professionals. The goal is to enable teachers to use the natural disasters as a component of instruction to enhance relevance and interest in the geosciences. Last year a VSFS intern helped to create and assemble educational information on several kinds of natural disasters. This year we would like your help in designing the user interface and developing the website that teachers and learners can access to gain information about real-time events. While the USGS is the lead federal agency, the American Geosciences Institute (AGI) will host the web prototype. The intern will work with mentors from USGS and AGI and will participate in team meetings with partner agencies and organizations. The intern will potentially also spend time on other activities that relate to the Education Rapid Response project, such as identifying, linking, uploading, and meta-tagging related web-based resources that are relevant to Earth science education.

Required Skills or Interests

Skill(s)

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Editing and proofreading
Educational design
Infographic design
Social media management
Storytelling/blogging/vlogging
Website design
Writing

Additional Information

As the focus of this internship, the design of the Education Rapid Response (working title) program website will call for a number of creative solutions to web design, user interface, and user experience challenges. The intent is to aggregate four main types of existing resources from federal and other credible sources:

- 1) Background information related to different hazards that provides general scientific explanation of how the events occur.
- 2) Specific real-time information (e.g., news articles, data, images) related to specific events.
- 3) Access to scientific and other personnel who can provide explanations of the events and their effects.
- 4) Instructional guidance (e.g., in the form of lesson and unit plans) for making use of the resources in teaching.

Our goal is to prototype the website and get educator input so that the project can be piloted with a cadre of selected users. The ultimate intent is that teachers and others will be able to sign up for notices of disasters and receive structured guidance about how to access and utilize the resources effectively in instruction.

Importantly, we do not intend that the educators making use of the materials be those in the local area of the disaster. Rather, we intend for the website to broaden participation and the sense of relevance of natural disasters, to promote Earth science education and potentially to motivate disaster preparedness widely.

Language Requirements

None